

Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A splint for immobilizing and supporting a body part of a human, wherein said splint comprises:

a) an inflatable portion structured to fit a shape and structure of a body part composed of a leg having a curvature, a foot, an ankle and a heel, the inflatable portion comprising integrally made parts, which include leg parts for holding left and right sides of the leg, a part for wrapping a back of the leg, and a foot part for wrapping ankle and sole portions of the foot, to cover the body part from three sides, leaving one side uncovered, the shape of the inflatable portion defining apertures between the ankle and sole portions of the foot part, the inflatable portion and comprising inflatable tubes interconnected by non-inflatable parts for achieving variable degrees of support, stiffness and restriction of movement, said inflatable portion being made of a flexible material having two opposed edges, said shape of the inflatable portion and arrangement of said inflatable tubes within said integrally made parts being such that the inflatable portion, when inflated, takes up the shape of said body part to provide maximum compatibility and prevent pressure on the heel;

b) at least one gas pressure source device connected to said ~~splint~~ inflatable tubes; and

c) a non-inflatable portion comprising at least one adjustable member for connecting said two opposed edges together across said uncovered side of the body part in a

manner to allow adjustment of the pressure and tightness of said splint on the body part.

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~~wherein said splint, when said inflatable tubes are inflated, fits the structure of the body part.~~

2. (Previously presented) The splint according to claim 1, wherein said at least one adjustable member is a strap made of Velcro.

3. (Withdrawn) The splint according to claim 1, wherein the body part is the torso.

4. (Withdrawn) The splint according to claim 1, wherein the body part is the neck.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The splint according to claim 1, wherein said splint is made of two nylon layers joined together by soldering means.

8. (Original) The splint according to claim 1, wherein said splint is made of two nylon layers which are coated with polyurethane.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The splint according to claim 1, wherein the pressure source device is a hand pump.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously presented) The splint according to claim 1 wherein the tightness of the splint on the body part is controlled by the fastening or loosening of the at least one adjustable member.

13. (Original) The splint according to claim 1 further including a suspension strap.

14. (Original) The splint according to claim 1 wherein pressure within the splint is controlled by a valve.

15. (Previously presented) The splint according to claim 1 wherein the adjustable member is detachable.

16. (Previously presented) The splint according to claim 1, further comprising at least one loop connected for suspension purposes.

17. (Previously presented) The splint according to claim 16, wherein said at least one loop is connected at one of said edges.

18. (Previously presented) The splint according to claim 12, wherein said at least one adjustable member is a strap made of Velcro.

19. (Previously presented) The splint according to claim 1, wherein said non-inflatable parts extend only in the direction transverse to the circumferential direction.

20. (Previously presented) A splint according to claim 1, constructed to be wrapped around the body part in a circumferential direction, and wherein each of said non-inflatable parts being located to extend between two of said inflatable tubes, and said tubes and said non-inflatable parts extending in a direction transverse to the circumferential direction.

21. (Previously presented) A splint according to claim 1, comprising ventilation holes for skin ventilation contained in, and extending through, the non-inflatable parts.

22. (Previously presented) A splint according to claim 1, wherein inflation of said inflatable tubes fits the structure of the inflatable portion to the structure of the three sides of the body part covered by the inflatable portion.

23. (Previously presented) A splint according to claim 1, wherein said inflatable portion is shaped to follow closely the shape of the body part when inflated.